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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/818,503	03/28/2001	Yasuko Yokobori	1614.1159	1217

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EXAMINER

VU, THONG H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2142

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/818,503

Applicant(s)

YOKOBORI ET AL.

Examiner

Thong H Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

1. Claims 1-18 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Wical [5,940,821] in view of Oren et al [Oren 6,240,401 B1].

3. As per claim 1, Wical discloses a network community supporting system comprising:

a message database storing contents of messages given by participants of a network community together with titles thereof [Wical, a knowledge base sorted the documents with title, col 2 line 44-col 3 line 35; col 6 lines 26-52] ;

a theme database storing themes of the network community [Wical, identifies themes, col 4 lines 22-63; document theme vector, col 6 line 53-col 7 line 67];

a theme classifying part analyzing characteristics of the messages concerning themes thereof, based on the contents stored in said message database and theme database [Wical, categories based on terminology in the document, col 7 lines 15-60; based on query mapped to the knowledge base, col 25 lines 9-45; based on the greatest total document strength, col 27 lines 14-25; based on noun concept, thematic

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tags, col 30 lines 27-47; based on uses of the terms in set of documents, col 31 lines 12-37];

Wical also discloses the learning processing updates the document theme vector to include the newly categories [Wical, update the document theme vector, col 6 line 54-col 7 line 15]. However Wical does not explicitly teach a theme updating part updating said theme database based on the analysis results of said theme classifying part.

It was well-known in the network database art that a database is updated based on the new information [see Oren, Haimowitz, Strubbe references].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the technique of the step of updating said database based on the results of the step of analyzing authorization transactions and access transactions as taught by Oren [Oren col 20 lines 7-12] into the Wical's apparatus in order to utilize the update process. Doing so would provide a quick, simple and efficient process to update information to the network database.

4. As per claim 2, Wical-Oren disclose message analysis database for analyzing the messages generated based on said message database [Wical, analyzing database, col 6 line 53-col 7 line 7 line 14]; and

a message grouping part appropriately grouping the messages stored in said message database, based on relationship among the messages stored in said message

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analysis database or message database [Wical, the grouping of categories, col 5 lines 1-14; group terms, col 10 lines 14-61; theme group col 16 line 54-col 17 line 47].

5. As per claim 3, Wical-Oren disclose a part performing modification, generation and/or division of the titles of the messages stored in said message analysis database [Wical topic group, col 11 lines 1-21].

6. As per claim 4, Wical-Oren disclose a theme part storing the themes and a keyword part storing keywords concerning the themes, wherein said theme classifying part classifies the modified, generated and/or divided titles of the messages, by using the keywords of said keyword part of said theme database [Wical, categories based on the term, col 4 lines 48-63; a classification system to reflect a context associated with the query result, col 5 lines 1-14].

7. As per claim 5, Wical-Oren disclose theme renewing part updating the themes based on message analysis interim output, output based on the titles (i.e.: topic) of the messages stored in said message analysis database and a theme part storing the themes keyword part storing keywords concerning the themes of a theme database [Wical topic group, col 11 lines 1-21].

8. As per claim 6, Wical-Oren disclose community analysis rule database used for contriving guideline for management the community from the contents of said message

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analysis database analyzing the contents of the messages database [Wical, analyzing database, col 6 line 53-col 7 line 7 line 14]; and

a community analyzing part referring to said community analysis rule database, and analyzing the community database [Wical, analyzing database, col 6 line 53-col 7 line 7 line 14].

9. As per claim 7, Wical-Oren disclose es a theme analysis rule database used for analyzing the themes from said message analysis database; and a theme analyzing part referring to said theme rule database, and analyzing the theme [Oren, processing rule, col 13 lines 6-25].

10. As per claim 8, Wical-Oren disclose member database storing personal information of the participants of the network community, wherein the member information of said member database is used for drawing the messages of the participants [Wical, thematic profile, col 6 lines 42-52; profile query, col 25 line 60-col 26 line 67].

11. Claims 9-16 contain the similar limitations set forth of apparatus claims 1-8. Therefore, claims 9-16 are rejected for the similar rationale set forth in claims 1-8.

12. Claims 17-18 contain the similar limitations set forth of apparatus claim 1. Therefore, claims 17-18 are rejected for the similar rationale set forth in claim 1.

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13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Thong Vu, whose telephone number is (703)-305-4643. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00AM- 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *Jack Harvey*, can be reached at (703) 305-9705.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9700.

Any response to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 or faxed to :

After Final (703) 746-7238

Official: (703) 746-7239

Non-Official (703) 746-7240

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 11,2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Thong Vu
Patent Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thong Vu', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.